Sector Integrated Programme for Development of Spices during 1992-93 with increased financial out lays.

Oil Drilling in Himachal Pradesh

1598. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Q.No. 1969 on 8th January, 1991 and state:

(a) whether Oil drilling work has since been started in Changar-Talai in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir, on 19.3.1991.

(b) Till 27.2.1992 well Changar-Talai- 1 had been drilled upto a depth of 3308 metres.

[*English*]

Increase in Quota of Kerosene to Kerala and Karnataka

1599. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VEERAPPA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of Kerala and Karnataka have approached the Union Government to increase the quota of Kerosene; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requests, whenever received, are considered and decisions taken keeping in view various factors, including products availability, natural clamities etc.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Income limit for Post-Matric Scholarship

1600. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recieved any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for increasing the income limit of the parents/guardians for eligibility to grant post-matric scholarship to chidren and to link the income limit with the price index under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

[*English*]

Police Verification for Passport Seekers

1601. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to scrap the existing practice of Police Verification for passport seekers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Police verification is required to comply with certain statutory proisions of the Passports Act which are based on considerations of national sovereignty, integrity and security.

[*Translation*]

Development of Central Security Forces in Naxalite Affected States

1602. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies of Central Security Forces deployed in Madhya Pradesh and other naxalite affected States during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of financial assistance provided by the Union Government to those States during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) There was no deployment of paramilitary forces for anti-naxalite operations in Madhya Pradesh and other Naxalite affected States during the last three years except in Andhra Pradesh where the average deployment was as follows:-

1989 - 7 Coys.

1990 - 8 Coys.

1991 - 25 Coys.

(b) No Financial assistance was provided to any of these States, on this account.

[*English*]

Sunflower Seeds

1603. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Sun-flower seeds during 1991-92, State-wise;

(b) whether mexican beetle is found to be effective in controlling the parthenium weed, which is devouring sunflower plants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The rabi/summer sunflower crop is still in the field and it is still somewhat early to arrive at firm estimates of production for 1991-92.

(b) and (c). The Mexican beetle has been found to be an effective biological control agent of parthenium weed under field conditions in Bangalore and surrounding areas. Reports that this beetle devours sunflower plants have been found to be baseless.

Winding up of Trade Mission and Information Centres of Erstwhile USSR in India

1604. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of EXERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade mission and information centres of erstwhile USSR in India are likely to be wound up ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?